

COLORADO MEDICAID RECEIVES \$42.9 MILLION PERFORMANCE BONUS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 19, 2012

Contact:

[Rachel Reiter](#)

303-866-3921

DENVER – December 19, 2012 – The Department of Health Care Policy and Financing announced today that Colorado Medicaid has received a \$42.9 million Children’s Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act (CHIPRA) Performance Bonus from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). This bonus was the largest awarded in the country and marks the third consecutive year Colorado Medicaid has earned CMS recognition for its ongoing efforts to identify and enroll eligible children in Medicaid and Child Health Plan *Plus* (CHP+). The award today brings the total CHIPRA Performance Bonus for 2012, which included a supplemental payment of \$7 million, to \$49,674,898. Total amounts awarded in 2011 and 2010 were \$30,673,282 and \$13,671,043 respectively.

To qualify for the Performance Bonus, states must, 1) have in place at least five Medicaid and CHIP program features known to promote enrollment and retention in health coverage for children; and 2) demonstrate a significant increase in Medicaid enrollment among children during the course of the federal fiscal year.

Colorado met seven of the eight required program features:

- (1) The removal of the asset test for Medicaid eligibility;
- (2) The elimination of in-person interview requirements;
- (3) The use of one application for applying and renewing Medicaid and CHP+;
- (4) Presumptive Eligibility – the ability for applicants who appear to be eligible to receive health care services while waiting for final eligibility determination;
- (5) Health Insurance Buy-In - A premium assistance program allowing families to receive subsidies for eligible Medicaid clients to purchase employer insurance;
- (6) Administrative Renewal – the use of a pre-populated renewal form that is sent to families asking for household changes but is not required to be returned to renew eligibility; and
- (7) Express Lane Eligibility, which allows families to opt to allow information on the school lunch program application to be used to start a joint Medicaid/CHP+ application.

“The Department has continued to make progress on increasing the number of insured children in Colorado,” says Susan E. Birch, executive director. “Colorado is a leader in health care and we were thrilled to receive the highest performance bonus in the country. This bonus demonstrates how we are modernizing our eligibility processes and is recognition of the hard work our local county and community partners continue to do in reaching eligible but not enrolled kids.”

Colorado will need to continue to implement at least five of eight program features and demonstrate an increase in Medicaid enrollment compared to a baseline in order to qualify for the performance bonus next year.

About the Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing: The department administers the Medicaid and Child Health Plan *Plus* programs as well as a variety of other programs for low-income families, children, pregnant women, the elderly and people with disabilities. The mission of the department is to improve access to cost-effective, quality health care services for Coloradans. For more information about the department, please visit Colorado.gov/hcpf.

###